

# Earth First! Action Update

Issue 59 June 1999

*In resolution there are two types of people. Those who make it and those who profit from it. - Zapatistas*



The Monthly Round up of  
Ecological, and other, Direct  
Action from  
around Britain.

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar philosophies to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and her inhabitants.

## NINE IN ONE NIGHT!

A major genetics hit at the start of the month saw up to nine test sites destroyed or partially destroyed in one night. The exact information is not totally clear due to the security risks of reporting such actions, but it is possible that the action has set back Britain's cotton rape testing progress by a year.

The subsequent press release attributed the action to 'Aberdeenshire Against Genetics', following the crop-crushing storyline on the radio soap, which led the Daily Telegraph to call for a ban on the Aberdeens, claiming it had a more compelling effect than many violent films!

Five of the sites were in Cambridgeshire, three in Worcestershire and one in Essex.

\* CFB Twyford has become the first testing company to pull out of GE tests due to direct action. They complained that not only were all their GE tests being disrupted, but protesters had also been damaging their non-GE tests by mistake! Contact the GEN office on 0181 574 9516 to report test site actions or for an up to date list of sites.

### CROP SQUAT

Thursday 27th saw an attempt made to establish a 'crop squat', in opposition to genetic engineering. It was inspired by a similar squat which took place in Norfolk last year and was planned to provide a welcome to the farmers of the IOC (see article next page).

Unfortunately, within hours of squating the field, the police showed up, complete with dogs and a helicopter. The top cop stated that we were suspected of having caused damage to the crop (which had clearly been trashed weeks before our arrival) and gave us a time limit to leave by or be arrested. And our neighbourhoods were hosed away. While we needed to stand up for our lawful right to squat the field, both on the land and in court if necessary, the decision made by the ten people in occupation was to leave because leaving a place to welcome the visiting Italian farmers was our priority.

So, in the missing 36 hours we had to create and enact Plan B. This involved much travelling, surveillance both suspected and obvious, including an undercover police woman asking up to an activist in our motorway services parking.



Indian farmers at the crop squat - global solidarity against biotech tests!

point to inquire subtly 'what's happening with this GMO thing then?' and then attempting to hatch a ride in two of the vans (photos of her will be on-line soon), and reconnaissance to discover an alternative site.

By sun rise on Saturday a Pioneer Seeds co-located at Farnham Hall Farm in Essex had been occupied. When the police caught up, they were confronted with a myriad of dwellings, a garden, an occupied rig and mono-pole, and a vast lock-on. That time no-one was going anywhere!

Squatting as that was, for most people, the best moment was when the Indian farmers came marching over the hill, singing and carrying banners. We shared food, sang songs, and agreed that all across the globe we are fighting the same fight, and growing stronger every day. For the farmers it was one of the highlights of their visit. We held the land until Sunday evening. Huge thanks to every one involved, especially those who helped us out in Oxford at the last minute.

### ZENECA AGM

British company, Zeneca, held its Annual General Meeting on 21st of last month, and became the target for a day of action.

The day started with a visit to AstraZeneca's (called that since a merger last year) head office in London. After a scuffle to get into the building, some of the ground floor was occupied and decorated with squashed tomatoes. Eventually, after discovering that the head of Public Relations was in the middle of a book on risk assessment (that's us!), campaigners were

escorted out by police. Bolt-croppers were needed to remove contamination suited to make people who were chained to the front entrance.

Later, at the AGM, share holding protesters were kept out unless they could produce ID. This may not be legal but is something to be aware of for the future. One protester who had been refused admission managed to disconnect the computer terminals. Another was arrested after flicking humulol in the foyer.

Meanwhile, inside the AGM, questions were asked about just what AstraZeneca are up to, particularly focussing on the impact biotechnology is having on 3rd world countries.

One woman in the audience successfully made it on to the stage to pull apart the chairman's microphone, demanding justice, AstraZeneca, and all plant/pesticides in the process before being removed by security guards. Another woman handcuffed herself to the podium chair, it was removed.

### It's gonna be a long hot summer for the genetics lobby....

Don't miss out on the national Search Genetic Engineering Action at 12 noon on the 31st July. For more details 0708 191 858 or smathgenetic@yahoo.com. For a list of test sites, or information on genetic action groups in your area, contact GEN (see contacts last p6). Also, while we're on big summer actions, keep an ear to the ground for news of the 'Big Day Out' against Termac on the 17th August.

The EFi: AU is written by activists as a networking tool for activists. A different collective takes on its editorship for a year at a time, in line with EFi's non-hierarchical principles - (we would love to hear from anyone interested in taking it on in September)...If you have done an action, set up a new group, or want to tell people about a campaign, then send us an article (maximum 150 words). It doesn't matter if it seems small to you; stories of 3 people sitting on a digger are sometimes the most inspiring especially to people who aren't part of a large group. The feature pages are also available for longer articles which will provide useful information for activists in the UK. For contact details see back page.

# News In Brief

♦ If advertising boards have been damaged in Leeds recently, 5 of which have been totally destroyed. Leeds Advertiser, claiming responsibility, say "Advertising is the multipurpose of conservatism - kill it and conservatism goes hungry"

♦ The latest piece of market research conducted by Tesco's has been the throwing qualities of their various sorts of peas. Apparently demand for peas has gone up after the recent spate of pea attacks on top capitalists.

♦ The M11 Link Road in North East London is expected to open on the 7th June. Meet on George Gaze, Westminster at 9.30am for an end of the road get together, or from 7pm the night before for a all-night vigil

♦ A political and theoretical pamphlet of discussion and analysis of the June 18th protest is planned. Send articles and graphics to Reclaim the Streets after the event, putting 118 political publication in subject line or on envelope

♦ Last month the EFPAU reported that members of the Green Party had pleaded with people not to pull up plants on an anti-genetX demo in Fife. We have now been informed that two members of the Green Party were arrested for pulling up plants on that day and had not asked people to refrain from damage (Unfortunately we do not have the resources to check up on everything that we are told)

♦ The 10th of June will see fascist candidates standing in the Euro elections. In the past fascists have been forced to run away from election counts with police escorts. Contact Anti Fascist Action for information on anti-fascist activity in your area: BM Box 1734, London, WC1N3XX

♦ There's a new group set up to oppose the GE trees which mark the real frontier for the industrialisation of forestry. Only an e-mail contact so far - contact GE Free Forests on m077@gn.apc.org

♦ A planned fascist march, in Worcester, was cancelled due to militant local opposition. And so was one in Halifax Ch, and the NF speaker in Oxford. Shame

♦ Radix is a European video archive which lends out activist videos for little more than the postage cost from Germany. Contact them for a catalogue - address on contacts list

♦ On Wednesday May 19th one man gained entrance to the army and navy recruitment centre in Preston while another blockaded the entrance. The action was in protest against the bombing of Yugoslavia. There was one arrest. 10 people gathered in support of the activists and protest of NATO bombardment. Military personnel then closed the office. One person was detained for a breach of the peace but the charges were dropped

♦ A new camp in Liverpool has been set up to protest the construction of two blocks of luxury flats in wild park land. Camp mobile: 0403 176 279

♦ Feral Books is a new cost-price anarchist and radical ecological distribution service for activists. Catalogue available soon, c/o Leeds Earth First. ferabooks@gmail.com

♦ Help is needed running an EPI stall at the Genefair jamboree event on July 10th in London. If you can help out contact Manchester EPI

## INTER CONTINENTAL CARAVAN

The Inter-continental Caravan of Indian activists arrived in Britain on the 29th May, for three days touring the south of England before heading back onto the continent. However, out of the 320 people who were due to come to this country, only 37 managed to get visas (including none of the Karnataka farmers)

After a Public Hearing (People vs. Corporations), an impromptu action took place. Since the Multinational Institute had recently issued a report saying that GM food could have a useful place in world health etc, the whole meeting, developed from Friends House and to the Nuffield office in the West End, London, occupying the whole of a 4-lane one-way into the barges. While some of the Indian farmers and others occupied the office and had lengthy dialogues, others outside made noise and hung banners up. All in all this was a real taste of the united colours of resistance. The Indians also visited the crop squat (see front page) and will now visit other parts of Europe before arriving in Cologne for the June 18th celebrations. acf9uk@hotmail.com

## CRITICAL CLAMPDOWN

It seems that Norwich Critical Mass has just got a bit too critical. Now attracting 50+ cyclists, April's event had an excellent atmosphere with, as would be hoped at these spontaneous cycling happenings, cyclists taking control and defining the event as it happens.

The ride was marked by aggressive policing. Police handed out written warnings at the start of the ride. Within 10 minutes of setting off a cyclist near the front of the crowd pulled in to the pavement to walk for the others to catch up. He was immediately tackled from his bike, arrested for obstruction, sustaining injuries severe enough to require hospital attention

Critical Mass will continue, meet 2pm St Peter Mancroft Church, by the old Library car park, Norwich, last Saturday of each month

## NEWBURY STILL UNDER ATTACK

Less than a year since the Newbury Bypass opened, the local lobby's claims that it would not result in unbridled development are exposed as the lies we always thought they were. West Berkshire Council has approved an application by Vodafone for an out-of-town development on 40 acres of greenfield land to the North of Newbury. Local Voices, an active anti-bypass group, is opposing the plans. They commented "Vodafone threatened to pull out of Newbury (where they already have a major office) if they did not get the go-ahead. We have a quite literally been blackmailed"

The application will now go to the Government Office of the South East which will decide in two or three weeks whether to submit the scheme to a public enquiry or not.

Other developments also threaten the Berkshire countryside between the bypass and the town including warehouses, industrial depots and housing developments

We have also received news that an extension of the bypass to link its northern end to Chesham Junction on the M4 is being considered. The EFPAU has been unable to get any more info on this but it will presumably threaten the 4 trees which were saved back in 1996 at the former Mary Hare camp

For further details contact the Third Battle of Newbury on 07000 785381. Possible Vodafone action in Newbury on June the 18th (with time to get to London for the Carnival) - meet Newbury Train Station Bar, or contact Reading Roadbusters

## JUNE 18 IS HERE!

Here's a list of open actions in the city of London on the global day of action on June 18th. Actions will also happen in about 40 other countries

7 am - Critical mass cycle action - Merit West Southfield, BC1

10 am - Picket of Reed Employment Agency, 67 Moorgate, EC2 (over 'New Deal' assessment of claimants). Further info call Hartingay Solidarity Group 0181 374 5027

10.30 am 'Animal abuse is an transnational as Capital' meet Farringdon tube to demonstrate against Southfields meat market and other animal abuses.

11.00 am - Anti-McDonalds picket. Meet Liverpool Street. Meet McDonalds. Further info: London Greenpeace 0771 713 1269

12.00 noon Carnival against Capital - meet Liverpool Street Station. Consider dressing to blend in as office workers, cycle couriers, tourists. Bring a radio

4.00 pm - Picket of Arsons, 335 Bishopsgate, (McDonalds bought the Arsons cake chain earlier this year). Meet Bishopsgate entrance of Liverpool Street BR station. Further info: London Greenpeace 0171 713 1269

6.00pm - Anti Monarchy March. Meet Trafalgar Square. Contact MAM, 01523 560145

If you do an action on June 18th, in London or internationally, then don't forget to report it to the Action Update. Legal support is available from the Legal Defence and Monitoring group on the day - if you are nicked then call them on 0881 5307116

If all that wasn't enough, why not join the Eurobank mass train jump to arrive in Cologne for the big anti GM demo on the 19. The plan is, to meet on the evening of the 18, at 1900 SHAR in front of the International Trade Office, London, to board the 1927 Eurostar service to Brussels, the next morning, meet up with activists from Brussels, Paris and beyond to travel en-masse onto Köln for the demonstration. The decision as to when to return will be decided by those present on the day. You will need to bring some money, at least, for food, but the choice of a passport is entirely up to you. Contact eurobank01@hotmail.com

## CAREERS FAIR DISRUPTED

On Thursday 20th May a careers fair in Norwich was disrupted. Five people, concerned that evocation and torturous job, amongst others, Hilgrove camp were out in public trying to recruit young people for their corporate, profit driven abuse

The Hantington stall (which cost them several hundred pounds) was occupied and their promotional literature replaced with leaflets explaining the company's work

Job seekers were invited to take up a career in animal abuse or animal control or alternative paths in arson/anthropology

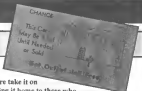
Signs were altered to read 'Hantington death scenes'. The stall was held for about three quarters of an hour before the police ejected people. There were no arrests

The organisers said that, "this was a really simple action to put together, and a great chance to talk to people about to be shamed on the treadmill of 'earning a living'. The careers fair was packed with disfigured entrepreneurs, and we would recommend checking out similar events in your area. Just keep an eye on the local press and career advice centres"

Job seekers were apparently very interested in talking to the activists and HLS were extremely posed off about the action.

# On Getting Nicked...

Some information on what will happen to you if you get arrested and how best to deal with it



Most of what follows will be old news to many people. However, it is vitally important that those who have not come across such advice before take it on board and act on it should they get arrested. It is also worth hammering it home to those who already know it. Lots of us have dropped ourselves in it by talking when we've known we shouldn't!

## AT THE STATION

You will be taken to a police station. Once inside a desk sergeant will ask your name, address and date of birth. You must give this information. You don't need to give your DOB if you're over 21. Not doing so might delay your release but it is worth remembering that it can make it harder for them to check your records, both at this point and on subsequent arrests. Your belongings will be taken from you. These will be listed on the custody record and you should be asked to sign that the list is correct. Do this immediately before the list item so that the cops can't add anything incriminating later. Do not sign if the list is incomplete, e.g. if your wallet is listed, do not sign unless its contents, such as cash notes, are also listed. People have lost stuff that way in the past. They may also try to get you to fill in a form detailing your appearance, education, political involvement etc. Do not fill it in.

You will be read your rights, these include the right to see a solicitor and to have someone informed of your arrest. You will then be placed in a cell until the police are ready to deal with you.

At some stage you may be charged with an offence. They will read the charge out to you and then ask if you would like to say anything. Answer 'no comment'. Once you have been charged they have the right to use force to take your fingerprints and a DNA sample either from your mouth or by plucking out hairs. At no point do they have the right to use force to take your photo so you can stop them by looking away / pulling your T-shirt over your face etc. They ought take it as soon as you walk in to the station or at some later point when you are not expecting it however. They might well ask you for your prints and DNA before you are charged 'to speed things up'. If they already have these from a previous arrest then there is little point refusing. If they do not, then refuse, they have no right to use force to do that if you have not been charged. You might at some point be offered a caution, although this is not as bad as a conviction it is still an admission of guilt and will appear on your record. The fact that you are being offered one at all probably means that they are not up for taking you to court. Do not accept it.

At all times in the station you should remain as calm and polite as possible. Remember that you're on their territory.

## SOLICITORS

You should be able to ring your solicitor very soon after the desk sergeant has finished with you. You should do so as soon as you have the chance. It is advisable to avoid using the duty solicitor as they are often in league with the cops and at the very least will offer bad advice. Use your own. On an action you should have had the number of a good solicitor provided. Refuse to be interviewed unless your solicitor is present.

## INTERVIEWS

An interview is the police questioning you about the offences they wish to charge you with. This will normally take place in an interview room. An interview is only ever of benefit to the police. If they had enough evidence against you to convict you then they would not need to interview you so it stands to reason that anything you say can only work to their advantage.

## NO COMMENT

The Criminal Justice Act of 1994 did not remove the right to silence, it merely gave the courts the power to take your silence as evidence against you. That sounds bad but in reality your best bet is still to say 'no comment'. You could explain your silence to the court by saying that you were too confused and scared to think clearly, or that you believe that we should be entitled to the right to silence.

To all questions you should answer 'no comment'. They will ask you a lot of questions which do not sound dodgy, answer them all 'no comment'. If you answer some 'safe' questions and then claim up when they ask you a question about the crime it will look bad. 'What time did you arrive at the protest?' 'no comment'. 'Was the man shouting?' 'no comment'. 'Did you witness any damage being done?' 'no comment'.

They might try all sorts of tricks to get you to talk. They might threaten you with violence, or longer detention, they might offer to drop some charges if you admit to others, they might say that your friends have guessed on you. They might say that they already have enough evidence to get a conviction. Even if any of this is true you still have nothing to gain and a lot to lose by talking. You should answer 'no comment' to everything even if your solicitor advises you to talk - a good one won't!

It is not only for your sake that you should refrain from answering questions. Talking in an interview could drop someone else in it even if you do not deliberately grass on them. You could land someone else in trouble without even knowing you have done so, for example if your description of what happened, or what you could see from a certain point does not fit in with what they say, it could prove that one of you is lying.

The place to do your explaining is not in the cop shop but in court if it gets that far (and it's far less likely to if you don't talk). Whatever happens answer 'no comment' to all questions.

## SUPPORT ROLES

If a friend has been arrested and you know what name they will have given to the police, then it is a very good idea to go to ask about them. The police ought treat them better if they know that there are people on the outside showing an interest. You ought also be able to take food, drink, magazines and cigarettes in for them. It ought also be a good idea to contact their solicitor, just in case the police have not allowed them to do this.

# Nobody Talks - Everybody Walks



# Antenna Antics

## Some notes on sabotaging state surveillance installations

Antennas are used by the various 'big brother' organisations, such as the American National Security Agency and Composite Signals Organisation (part of the UK foreign office), to listen in on private telephone conversations, pirate radio, resistance radio, e-mail, fax and other forms of communication.

We don't know who they gather information on, how much of it they gather, who they pass it on to or how it will be used. But one thing that we can be sure of is that they are an integral part of the industrial military complex which will always work in the interests of the Western capitalist states and certainly not for those who oppose them!

We should all know by now not to give away any information over the 'phone, or email etc. that we wouldn't willingly tell to a cop, but it is possible to take a more active role in making the spies' job more difficult. We can fight back by sabotaging antennas in our country.

The equipment that you'll need to do this is an electrician's screwdriver, (for telling you if a current is running through the cable) and a pair of cable cutters or boltcutters.

Antennas can look very different depending on exactly what their role is. Several different types are shown in the pictures but there are many others. At the antenna there'll be a cable running down to the ground possibly to a junction box. This is the cable you need to cut. Run the electrician's screwdriver over it to make sure there is no current through it. When you know there is no current, cut it. If possible get the end wet as this makes it harder to repair. Try and do the cut so that it's hard for them to find.

There's lots of antenna sites in the UK, some are guarded, others aren't. A list of a few is provided but you'll probably notice others on trips in the countryside.



### Locations of Antenna

The following antennas are used by the National Security Agency (NSA), M15, M16, Composite Signals Organisation (CSO) and Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ). No army sites are listed as these facilities are sometimes used for search and rescue operations.

#### Antennas (Lancashire)

Barford St John	
Baldock (nr Letchworth, Bedford)	GCHQ
Blackhall (near Cricklade, Wilt.)	CSO, NSA
Bude (Cornwall)	NSA/GCHQ
Chicksands (nr Bedford)	NSA involvement
Crippen (Wales/England Border)	NSA/RAF
Croughton (near Banbury)	
Culmhead (nr Churchstoke, Somerset)	CSO
Felstead (Norfolk)	NSA
GCHQ (Cheltenham)	GCHQ
Hawick (near Fife, Scotland)	CSO
Hugh Wycombe	NSA
Iron Mount (nr Scarborough)	CSO
Kirknewton	NSA
Mormond Hill (nr Peterhead, Scotland)	NSA
Fylingdales (nr Worthy) N Yorks	NSA/RAF
Mildenhall (Cambs)	NSA
Lakenheath (Cambridgeshire)	
Meerth Hill (N Yorks, nr Harrogate)	NSA
Rugby (off M1)	GCHQ/NSA



#### Further reading:

The Puzzle Palace, James Bamford, Sidgwick+ Jackson, 1982  
The Unbreakable Aircraft Carrier, Duncan Campbell, Michael Joseph, 1984  
Secret Power, Nicky Hagar, Craig Potton 1996



# Blatant Incitement Project

**"the Blatant Incitement project exists to empower people to organise themselves without hierarchy, for radical action towards social, ecological change, by sharing skills, knowledge, and inspiration."**

Hopefully, since we spent more time wording that than you might imagine was possible, it gives the general idea. But here's a bit more information that will help you get involved and make use of the Blatant Incitement Project (BLINC) (BIC? BLIP? does it matter?)

The idea was inspired by the EPI Roadshow which travelled the country back in '92 as part of the launch of EPI in Britain. Earlier this year there was a get-together at the EPI Winter Gathering to discuss current possibilities, and two main points became clear. One was that everyone felt some EPI style outreach was important, as it can prove difficult to get involved, especially nowadays as there are less protest camps. The other was that many activists couldn't really see how to fit the traditional-epic-van-journey roadshow into their lives or campaign schedules (despite one person's arguably fantasising vision of blurring round the country on Vespas dressed as nuns). So in the two meetings that have happened since (we're not having any more), people have invented a concept that aims to be both effective, and flexible. This is the way it works:

BLINC has a contact point, which is care of Manchester EPI, or <domit@nemato.de.freemove.co.uk>. You can get in touch and either offer something, or request something. Things on the offers list so far include NVDA (Non Violent Direct Action) workshops, ecological puppet shows and events for kids, a slideshow on agribusiness incorporating genetic issues and sustainable alternatives, a portable cinema (in the planning stage currently), not to mention some political musicians. And in about a month, some people will be kicking off a "politics in schools" angle by taking up the invitation of teaching sixty sixth-formers about 'ecological alternatives to capitalism'.

The general idea is that whatever's being talked about, we keep the radical message clear; for example, someone asked to visit a local veggie-box group might put local growing in the context of challenging corporate control. It was also felt that no-one wants to waste time being "info-tainment" - our priority is information for action.

The BLINC structure enables most people to get involved at some level. You can register as offering a workshop or skill, and only do it once a year if that's all the time you have. You can take on BLINC as part of your own campaigning, using it to visit places or projects and build links with communities or groups. Or you can do something in the middle of the two. Some people have taken on admin tasks, but perpetuating the project is now up to everyone. If you want to be quite involved, then you can request to join the administrative email list that will field enquiries (people offering skills etc will not have their details circulated publicly, but will instead themselves be given the contact details for people who have asked for what they offer). In the discussions had so far, it's been felt that this project could not only be positive for people wanting to find out more about radical politics and direct action, giving them a way into a network, but that it will be a good thing for Earth First! too. Many of us became involved through sitting round a site campfire, hearing new ideas in a relaxed atmosphere. If creating a similar atmosphere, without the trees and diggers, is possible, then next year there really *might* be new people organising actions, putting on the gathering, and giving others a chance to recover from burn out!

Leaflets to promote BLINC will be available soon, and copies of meeting minutes are also available. Contact us c/o Manchester EPI. Oh, and the nuns and purple smoke are still in the pipeline, if enough people are up for it...



## GREEN FIELD HOUSING STUFF

URGENT, the Urban Regeneration and Greenfield Network, which campaigns against greenfield housing developments, is holding a one day conference and an action in Oxford on July 1.

The conference is to be held on the 20th with a view to bringing together various local anti-greenfield housing groups. Many of these groups are composed of otherwise non-politically active local residents who are turning to Direct Action. The evening will see a party with local bands playing. Earth Firsties and those of a similar persuasion are wanted, and their attendance can be subsidised.

Sunday will see a Steering Group meeting at which EFT types are also welcome to push the radical agenda, before a day of Direct Action on the issue of urban regeneration and greenfield development on Monday.

Contact URGENT see contacts list.

## TARMAC AGM

On Monday 24th activists from Beshwood, Nottingham, and elsewhere descended on Tarmac's AGM in Birmingham to protest against Tarmac's proposed quarries in Beshwood Country Park, and other crimes against the planet. A good turnout meant that when the first protester made their point, and a nuptial of applause ran across the hall, Tarmac's chairman, John Barnham's face fell. Next followed a trade of high volume questioning, whistling blowing, and attempted assaults on the stage. The following scenes saw about 15-20 protesters carried out. The initial clause set the agenda with all the questions at the AGM about Beshwood or the environment. John Barnham agreed to visit the village and is dying in by helicopter (another on of their environmental policies?) to face protestor demands. The saga continues? The No Tarmac Quarries At Beshwood Campaign would like to unanimously thank all the crews and individuals who came to join us on the day, it is muchly.

Campaign contact 0151 938 5666

## JOIN IT IN SHEFFIELD

Down it in the North actions started happening last year, after the idea for them was formed at the Summer Gathering. The aim was to put on regular regional actions which would also increase the level of analysis and networking in the North of England.

The fourth of these actions took place in Sheffield, and, despite a disappointing turn out of around 35 people, was a very interesting day for all involved. After an evening of socialising and workshops about June 18<sup>th</sup>, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> saw the activists split into two groups. Following the format of a scavenger hunt, the intrepid activists visited some of the nastiest organisations polluting their local and environmental destruction in Sheffield. Group 1 shut down a BP filling station and were quickly outnumbered by 3 vans of cops. As that group withdrew, group 2 spent one action and shut down the Shell station opposite. Both groups continued their hit and run tactics which saw visits to a car tyrene, Bred employment agency, Midland Bank, and, of course, McDonalds. The police response was unbelievable, with helicopter, cops, inkers, landrovers, horses and metal weapons galore. However the running nature of the action meant that the cops were always one step behind. Hitting a number of targets ensured that all dodgy companies were on edge that day. As a format the concept was that it had potential and everyone involved had a fun day out.

The Next Day? It is the North action will be in Newcastle in September. Watch this space

## VENGEANCE DACKS OFF

Fairlane Prison Camp in Scotland was home to two very successful actions against Trident nuclear submarines last month. First, three people managed to gain entrance to the depot where the war heads are stored before being loaded onto the Trident submarines. One of them climbed to the top of the crane used to unload the warheads and was almost immediately removed by police. All three were arrested for breaching local bylaws, two of whom were later released without charge. But the woman who made it up the crane was charged and is due to appear in court on July 5th.

Later in the month HMS Vengeance the 4th Trident submarine was due to arrive at the base, having been delayed for two months due to its communications equipment having been sabotaged (per EFTAU issue 56). A camp was set up on the grounds overlooking the entrance to the Loch which Vengeance was to enter. Large numbers of people were there to meet it, with floating obstacles, which may have had the capacity to damage it, to place in its way, and boats to sail out in to obstruct it.

Faced with this opposition the submarine was diverted to Coullport instead of Fairlane. Some people managed to get there to protest its arrival and people swam to within 30 yards of it before being stopped by police.

Fairlane Prison Camp 0146 820901

## VALLEE D'ASPE VICTORY

The last action weekend at the Vallee D'Aspe took place on the 22nd/23rd May. A week later the government announced that it would not be building the road through the Pyrenees which has faced 15 years of resistance, and will restore the rail link instead.

3000 people formed a human chain around the area to be open bridged and let a huge bonfire keep the road shut throughout the night. Actions have been helped recently by geological processes getting their own back, with rock falls on freshly laid tarmac keeping other parts of the road scheme closed.

The decision to abandon the project, which runs through the last remaining habitat of the European brown bear, came after spending £200 million on it, and was partly catalysed by the recent fire in the Mont Blanc tunnel which killed 45 people.

## TESCOS ACTION

Over the last few months various supermarkets in Leeds have been leafleted informing customers about genetically modified food. During a visit to Tesco the 3 leafleters were threatened by security and were physically prevented from distributing their leaflets. It was decided that if they were going to try and stop us leafleting then we should arrest ourselves a bit and get back and do something a little more disruptive.

On Friday May 7th, 30+ participants - some new to direct action - gave out leaflets, hung banners and set up a 'Toxic Waste Dump' within the store. Response from the public was positive and supportive. Response from Tesco was once again aggressive, backed up by a large police presence.

Chaos ensued as one protester was hauled into the baby changing room by security. Some random shopper let us go into an eloquent rant about how no one should shop in supermarkets.

The action ended with the person in the baby changing room being arrested despite attempts to free him, three police vans and a car were on the scene and the protesters made a tactical retreat for a debriefing session. Contact Leeds EFT

## Action Diary

June

5-6. Okaraal Cafe, Manchester opens for a weekend of June 15 build-up parties. Contact Mike 121

7. M1 Link Road expected to open - see News in Brief

8. June 15 Benefits: Earth Tribe, Masons tribe, House of Shydan, The Garage, Highway

11. Anti-Cor action in Leeds (unpublished sheet)

TAPP's act of midday: contact Leeds EFT

12. RTS party at Newcastle. Meet Ips at Central Station or Movement. Contact:

Newcastle: rts@ncc.com, tel: 01939 1125047

12. Cardiff and protest on the lead-up to June 15,

Edinburgh, meet 12 noon, The Mound

12. Genetically Modified Cycle Ride (a test city)

Moss at the bottom lake, Roundhill Park, Leeds. See

13. Cambridge Pro-JAF event: meeting at central

Cambridge June 15 Cambridge@hotmail.com

15. Activists in financial control around the world, in the

UK we're hitting the city of London. Contact RTS

0171 281 4521 also Street Party in Glasgow meet

Kirkcaldy or St. Francis or Kewning Park

Underground, contact ACS 0113 357 6242

10tham@btinternet.com

15. Movement Against the Mound: event to coincide

with royal wedding. Meet 3pm in Windsor Station,

July

15. URGENT conference

15. One-Off Yorkshire 0181 374 9877 Help needed

on EFT Staff contact Manchester EFT

12. URGENT action. See article this page

17. National action against Tarmac

21. National South Coast Genetic Engineering Action

01608 7191858 or southcoastgenetic@yahoo.com

28. Aug 2 Setting up Ecological Communities course

at Stripping Scares Co-op, mid-Wales 0870 7323218

August

2-4. European Annual Rights gathering, Norway

post@euroaction.org

18-23. EFT Summer Gathering, East Anglia. Contact

Leeds EFT for workshops or Norwich EFT for offers of

help on site

September

15th 'Dust' in the north. Newcastle, date the

13. Norwich Reclaim The Streets party - 07931398091

## Prisoners

This is by no means a comprehensive list. For a better list, once info on prisoner support and contacts for other prisoner support groups please contact Sarah

Liberty Prisoners. See contact list. Or

www.gpacan.com/leeds/Prisoners/1664

When writing to prisoners always put your name and

address on the back of the envelope

Doing time for crimes against Hillgrove Farm, breeders

of cat farm: contact

Nelaine Arnold (1st month) for Violent Disorder

Nelaine Arnold 014543, HMP Bullwood Hall, High

Road, Huddersfield, Essex, S8447T

Tom Moogham BV4144 (12 months) for Violent

Disorder, Dave Latham BV4386 (8 months) Pear

Adrian Davis (12/12 months), Paul Hillier

BV4387 (12 months) and Tim Senior BV4384 (5

months)

All at HMP Bellingham, P.O Box 56, Beter, Essex,

CO16 0PR

See Action BV4388 (15 months)

HMP Earningford Park Wootton-Under-Edge,

Gloucester, GL12 8DB

Another prisoner Hillgrove Farm has been brutally

assaulted, robbed and placed in segregation for his 'low

sanity' due to white supermaxes working hard in hand

with prison officials. Write (privately) to: Warden Jack

Morgan, Tenney Centre Industrial Prison, Beak 1,

Only, Tyneside 07449-9709, USA, asking that

Hillgrove might get a transfer to further education.

You can write to Hillgrove at the same address. Harriet

W. Thompson 09392.

## RATIONAL TRUST

Massive housing developments are now being planned throughout rural Britain.

A group calling themselves the 'Rational Trust' have started a regular poster campaign regarding strategic housing development within Withernsea greenbelt land and are expecting to set up protest camps within the next six months.

Beaumont Homes has been granted permission to build twelve houses on surrounding greenbelt in Highworth (Wiltshire), despite massive local opposition. As a result a public right of way was closed and ancient protected hedgerows were flattened, breaking a two hundred year old act of parliament. Taxes were also felled and wildlife eradicated. Development then increased from twelve houses to a further seven hundred and fifty, all being built on greenbelt land and moving steadily towards Swindon.

Thus will also create more industrial development. Swindon council have been quoted as saying "Swindon will become a city, no matter what the cost".

The Rational trust can be contacted on 0788 059 2379 / 0836 745 581 or The Rational Trust, c/o 21 Beaulieu Close, Swindon, SN5 8AQ

## OPENCAST THE DOME

MSC Associates is the well known opencast mining 'company' which opencasted Michael Heseltine's garden in 1997, have been conducting opencast mining test holes 41 a new site under the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. The alliance of environmentalists and deep pit mining groups claim it is the only site genuinely suitable for opencast mining in Britain due to the large DUST COVER which has already been erected over the site.

After speakers from the NUM and local tenant's groups (one of 440 million are being made by the local borough council despite the £750 million dome) engineers commenced digging for coal. A rich seam was located and several bags of the black gold were brought to the surface within a matter of minutes.

No Opencast Q185 7673142

Contact us at: EFAU, c/o CRC,  
16 Shorebrook Avenue, Chapelton, Leeds,  
LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365  
<actionupdate@gn.apc.org>  
www.eco-action.org/efau  
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drawn from the A-Spire logo

## A-SPIRE: AUTONOMOUS ZONE

On the 26th May the 'A-Spire' autonomous zone, situated local centre for Leeds, was erected after four weeks up and running. The centre had contained a site providing vegan and organic food on a donations basis, a radical/anarchist library and reading room, and a meditation room and workshops on bike maintenance and martial arts amongst other things. It had also been the scene of meetings, fundraising and general networking for political groups and campaigns such as Earth First!, the Hunt-Sabo and anti-war and anti-nuclear activity.

Originally the plan had been to mount the eviction and force the university who own the building into a full scale eviction. Barricades had been built including a platform fifty foot up in the spine and a direct action pledge signed by hundreds of local people. Unfortunately by the time the four weeks were up the collective were too exhausted to continue running the centre on a day to day basis, let alone launch themselves into an eviction.

Although the spirit is now gone, A-Spire continues, courtesy of the web. Take a look: [www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Parliament/3344](http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Parliament/3344)

A pamphlet, describing and analysing issues arising from the centre and spiral centres in general is being produced. For a copy, contact Leeds EFAU or email: [a-spire@geocities.com](mailto:a-spire@geocities.com)

## NEW ROAD CAMP IN ESSEX

A new anti-road camp has been set up in Gorse Wood against the A170 bypass from Chelmsford towards Southend. The road, which is to be built by Loring contractors, also seems to be part of a future grand plan for a London outer orbital road. It will pass through several fragments of bluebell woods and aquatic habitats and threaten the fragile ecosystems of others by its proximity.

Fifty people were involved in setting the camp up, and had erected two treehouses during the first week. There's plenty more bug trees around to be delivered before the expected date of work starting in August. To get to the camp go around the back of All Saints Church in Rofford, and follow the path round until you come to the camp.

Camp Mobile 07507 915 977

## NEWS FROM THE PROTEST CAMPS

The Spaney camp on the proposed route of the at Birmingham Northern Relief Road is still going, against the new M6 that's going to wind its way through the midlands countryside. Dedications work started on some houses on route but has not been resisted. 07981 166761

Arthur's Wood and Cedar Wood camps are part of the continued resistance to the second runway at Manchester Airport, protecting the woods which the airport wants to chop as it would interfere with their radar. They have succeeded in appealing the eviction order as far as the House of Lords, but need to raise £2000 in order to present their case.

There will be a mass trespass on June 15th along the route of the Avon Ring Road south of Bristol. The road will destroy part of the flagship Bristol and Bath cycleway as well as woods, etc. For the mass trespass, catch bus 48/49 from Bristol. Get off at Saintsbury, turn right and walk downhill. Bring containers, banners, instruments. 0970 999038 / 0836 655725

## NUCLEAR WALK TO NATO HQ

More than 260 people from around the world were arrested during protests at NATO headquarters in Brussels. This was the final action of a 500 people peace march from the International Court of Justice in The Hague protesting about NATO's nuclear arsenal and the Balkan war. Despite water cannons being used on the crowd, some protesters managed to penetrate police lines and remove information from 'the most secure building in Europe'.

The same weekend Brussels saw its first Red Star the Streets party and an action against Moravits's officers with 200 members of the Inter-Continental Caravan. Contact For Mother Earth: +32 495 283229 [international.throtherearth.org](http://international.throtherearth.org)

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE EFAU ACTION UPDATE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

From: EFAU c/o  
Conversion Resource Ctr,  
16 Shorebrook Avenue,  
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Subscriptions cost a minimum of £5 for 12 issues. Send more if you can afford it so we can give free subscriptions to prisoners etc. Cheques payable to Earth First! Action Update. Remember security, false names and a collect or c/o address are advised.

Only when the last Garden market stall has sold the last crystal from the last RTE mine, only then will we realize that we won't sort the world out by selling indigenous cultures!



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